THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed new textbooks in Science for Classes VI to XII through a Textbook Development Committee headed by an eminent physicist and including subject experts, teacher educators and practicing teachers. NCERT has not received any adverse comment about Physics textbooks.

(c) Government is not aware of any such statement.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

Standard of primary schools

†211. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite spending crores of rupees on primary schools by Government, the standard of these schools has not improved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is making any plan to improve the standard of Government primary schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Government is committed to universalisati on of elementary education and has taken significant steps to enhance access, retention and quality through its flagship Programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Under SSA, (i) 1.47 lakh primary schools have been opened across the country, (ii) 1.23 lakh primary schools have been upgraded to have upper primary classes, (iii) 9.86 lakh teachers have been recruited, (iv) children are provided free textbooks, (v) teacher are provided periodic in-service training, (vi) Mid-day meal is provided to all children in classes 1-8 in Government and Government aided schools. These interventions have contributed to following improvement at primary and elementary level as under:

Item	2001-02		2006-07	
	Primary Level	Elementary Level	Primary Level	Elementary Level
Reduction in drop-out rates	39.03	54.60	25.43	46.03
Improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratio	96.3	82.35	111.24	96.92
Improvement in Gender Parity Index	0.83	0.81	0.94	0.93

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi